# THE LAST DAYS OF ALEXANDER, AND THE FIRST DAYS OF NICHOLAS, (EMPERORS OF RUSSIA)

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The last days of Alexander, and the first days of Nicholas, (emperors of Russia) by Robert Lee

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### ROBERT LEE

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· The Emperor Alexander and

## LAST DAYS OF ALEXANDER,

AND THE

# FIRST DAYS OF NICHOLAS,

(EMPERORS OF RUSSIA.)

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#### ADVERTISEMENT

TO

#### THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of this Diary being exhausted, and a second being called for, I avail myself of this opportunity to make a few remarks.

There are now sixty millions of slaves in the Russian Empire, speaking the same language, professing the same religion, having the same flesh, blood, and intellect as their masters, who yet enjoy no civil privileges, and from whom a knowledge of the sacred Scriptures is rigidly excluded. In what manner this dark stain upon humanity will be removed no one can foretel, but it is impossible to believe that it is destined to endure much longer. A Bible in the Russian language placed in the hands of every prisoner of war might contribute something to this great work.

From the Emperor, priests, and nobles, there is no hope of any improvement in the condition

of the slaves, but there are events now taking place which seem to indicate and justify a hope that a great internal revolution is impending, and that "the day of redemption" to the Russian slave "draweth nigh." As there is nothing of any real value in the institutions of Russia which could be swept away, there will be little to deplore in any revolution which may occur in that Empire.

ROBERT LEE, M.D.

5th June, 1854.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

The following pages contain the substance of a Journal which I kept during a residence of two years in Russia. The original MSS, are still in my possession. A few pages of the first portion, "The Last Days of the Emperor Alexander," were published in the "Athenæum" nine years ago.

ROBERT LEE, M.D.

## PART I.

## THE LAST DAYS

OF

THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER.

### THE LAST DAYS

OF

### THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER.

On the 5th of November, 1824, I arrived at Cologne, on my way from London to Odessa, to join the family of Count Woronzow, in the capacity of physician to his Excellency. The weather had been very tempestuous during the whole journey from England; and torrents of rain had fallen. The Rhine had overflowed its banks to a greater extent than had ever before been remembered. From the cathedral and spire of the town-house the inundation presented a striking and melancholy spectacle. The whole level country was covered with water; and the river with the wrecks it was floating away. The following day, many miles before reaching